

CENTRAL PROVINCES  
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS  
AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

VOLUME A.

DESCRIPTIVE.

EDITED BY

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AND

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*Superintendent of Gazetteers.*



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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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For the chapter on History and Antiquities we are indebted to the scholarship of Major Haig and for the detailed account of Agriculture to Mr. D. Clouston. Several other gentlemen have contributed articles concerning subjects on which they are expert and their kindness has been gratefully acknowledged in the course of the text. The riches of Sir Alfred Lyall's "Berār Gazetteer" of 1870 have been freely plundered and we have made frequent use of the Imperial Gazetteer of India both in the old and the new editions. We have also been particularly fortunate in receiving suggestions from a large number of friends, amongst whom we especially desire to record our thanks to Mr. F. G. Sly, Commissioner of Berār, the Hon'ble Rao Bahādur R. N. Mudholkar, to Mr. F. W. A. Prideaux and Lieut.-Colonel Mauduit, to Mr. C. G. Rogers, Mr. E. C. Rich, Mr. Sorābji Shāpurji and Mr. Narāyan Raghav

# ERRATA.

P.	39	l.	36	for	Nasir-ud-din	read	Nasr-ud-din.
	52		6	„	Niz-amul-Mulk	„	Nizam-ul-Mulk
	61		16	„	Bijapurs	„	Bijapuris
	138		6	„	fat her	„	father
	148		9	„	may be	„	maybe
	211						



सत्यमेव जयते

# AMRAOTI DISTRICT GAZETTEER.

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Name of Deputy Commissioner.	Period.	
	From	To
D. Cs. North Berär. { 1. Mr. T. H. Bullock ...	1853	13-9-1857
2. Capt. Meadows Taylor	14-9-1857	end of Feb. 1858
Mr. T. H. Bullock ...	end of Feb. 1858	end of Dec. 1858
3. Captain J. Allardyce	... Jany. 1859	11-2-1862
4. " J. G. Bell	... 12-2-1862	13-5-1862

*List of Deputy Commissioners who have held charge of the Amraoti  
District (concl'd.)*

Name of Deputy Commissioner.	Period.	
	From	To
Mr. H. S. Nicholetts ...	17-2-1886	19-6-1886
Lieut.-Colonel R. Bullock ...	20-6-1886	14-8-1888
17. Mr. A. Elliott ..	15-8-1888	4-1-1889
Colonel R. Bullock ...	5-1-1889	

*List of Deputy Commissioners who have held charge of the  
Ellichpur District, with the dates of their periods of office*

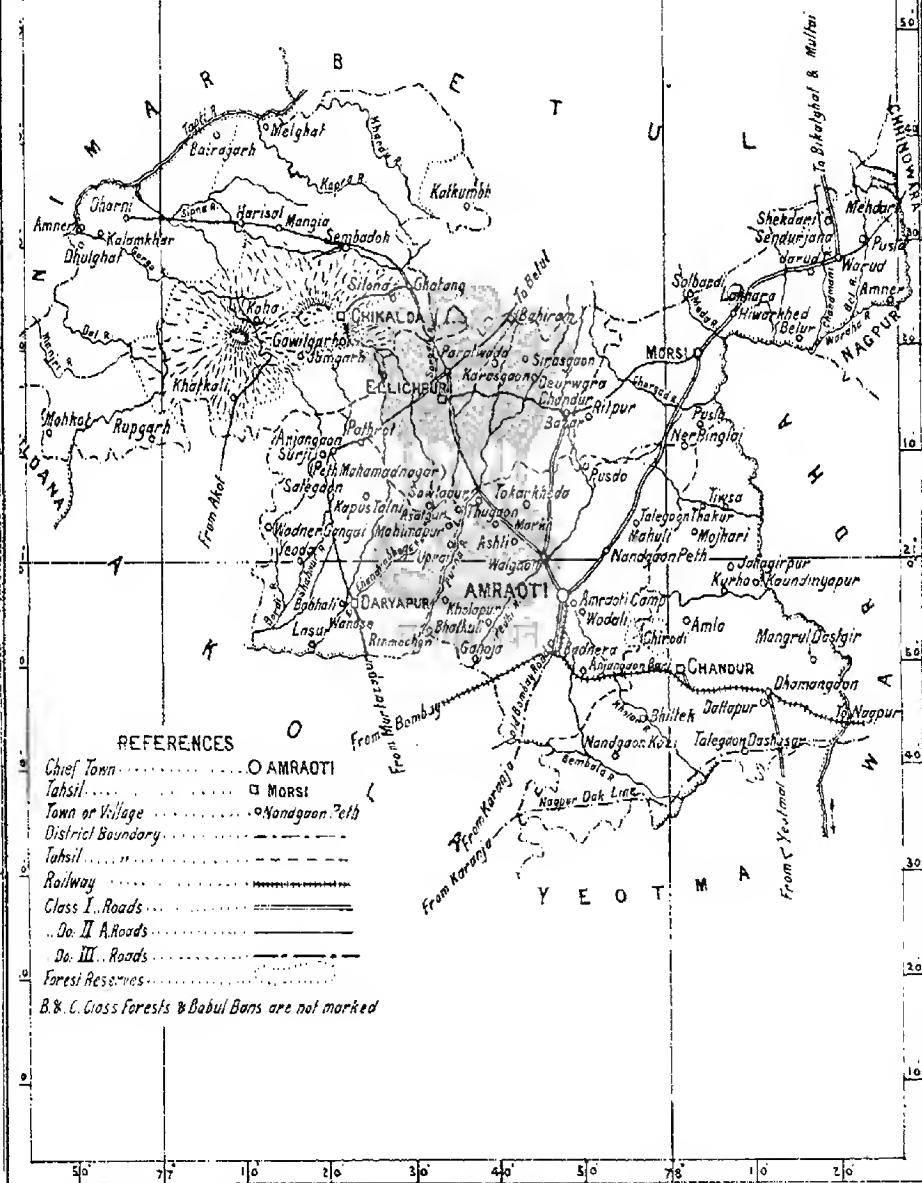
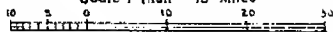
Name of Deputy Commissioner.	Period.	
	From	To
1. Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Stubbs ...	23-7-1867	23-9-1867
2. Lieutenant H. C. A. Szczepanski...	24-9-1867	14-8-1869
3. Captain H. C. Menzies ...	15-8-1869	14-10-1869
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*List of Deputy Commissioners who have held charge of the  
Ellichpur District (concluded.)*

Name of Deputy Commissioner.	Period.	
	From	To
Mr. H. Godwin-Austen ...	4-1-1895	31-8-1895
Captain F. R. M. C. de R. Mauduit ...	1-9-1895	16-9-1895
Mr. H. Godwin-Austen ...	17-9-1895	4-11-1897
21. Lieutenant D. O. Morris ...	5-11-1897</	

# DISTRICT AMRAOTI

Scale 1 Inch = 16 Miles



# AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

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## CHAPTER I.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

#### BOUNDARIES AND PHYSICAL FEATURES.

1. The District of Amraoti stretches from  $21^{\circ}46'$  to  $20^{\circ}32'$  N. and from  $76^{\circ}39'$  to  $78^{\circ}27'$  E. and includes the northern and north-eastern portions of Berār. It is divided into

Boundaries and  
Physical Features.

The area is 4754 square miles, of which 3123 are in the plain; the population according to the 1901 census is 809,499 persons. The greatest length of the District from east to west is about 120 miles and from north to south about 90 miles. Its name is taken from that of the present headquarters' town and is said to be derived from the temple of Ambā Devī situated there. This derivation, however, is a very doubtful one. There is a village on the Krishna river in the Madras Presidency also called Amrāvati (the word is the same) which is famous for a collection of sculptures now in the British Museum; and the name is said to mean in Sanskrit the abode of immortality or the Eternal City. Amraoti is also connected with the Hindu god Krishna to whom the river that bears his name is sacred, and it is conjectured that the derivation may be identical. The pronunciation





5. Apart from the Melghāt which has already been discussed, there is little variety in the contours of the District. The height above sea-level of the principal towns and stations is given in the following table:—

Name of Town	Place where height taken.	Height in feet.
Badnerā ... ..	Railway Stn. Platform ...	1097
Amraoti City ... ..	Do. ... ..	1118
Amraoti Camp... ..	D. C.'s Court house ...	1193
Ellichpur City ..		



1100 in the north to about 900 close to the Pūrna. Amraoti shows a wider range of figures, the eastern portion of the tāluk lying in the Amraoti Chāndur hills being upwards of 1400 feet above the sea, while the remainder varies between 1000 and 1300.

## GEOLOGY.

(*L. L. Fermor, Imperial Geologist.*)

6. Except for two small inliers of Lametā, Gondwāna, and Metamorphic rocks along the northern boundary of this District and occasional patches of laterite, the only geological formations represented are Deccan Trap, and the alluvium









'gravelly in texture, consisting of the usual small ferruginous grains in a red matrix; the grains when broken showing concentric structure. Beneath, it is more compact, but soft. In one place it was seen to rest on greenish-grey mottled mudstone, breaking into small cuboidal fragments, with joint surfaces between, so minute that it is impossible to obtain a fair fracture. This is probably decomposed trap.'

Wynne<sup>1</sup> refers to the following lateritic occurrence:—

'The plateau upon which Chikalda stands and the surrounding summits have a strongly lateritic appearance, such

as high as  $15^{\circ}$ ) in the lavas of which it is composed. This is a very uncommon occurrence in the Deccan Trap, which is almost everywhere horizontal; it is due to the fault that brings up the Gondwāna inliers noticed below.

With regard to the hill Deccan Trap formation south of the Pūrna alluvium Wynne<sup>1</sup> says:—

'The hills and portion of the valley south of the Pūrna river have been stated to consist of trap similar to that of the Deccan. All the usual varieties of amygdaloid, zeolitic, columnar, hard, gray, and softer ashy-looking traps occur, their

' for 15 miles. They then disappear again, but two small inliers, each about a mile long, occur at short intervals just beyond.

' In these inliers Lametā (cretaceous) beds occur immediately beneath the basaltic traps, and are succeeded in descending order by about 500 feet of strata comprising felspathic sandstones, white and brown conglomeratic beds, occasional ferruginous beds, and thin layers of white and purple shale. It has not been decided whether these rocks are of Kāmthi age, or whether they should be referred to the Mahādeva series, no distinguishable fossils having been found.

' No beds of Barākar or Tālchir age have been detected and the base of the sedimentary beds is not seen, whilst an attempt to discover



































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































